

Applicants: Fahey et al.

Application No.: 09/530,370

Filed: July 6, 2000

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4, 12-39, 43-45, 46 and 47 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 11, and 48 to read as follows:

~~1. (Twice Amended) A method of detecting a member of the taxa actinomycetes in a sample, comprising:~~

~~(a) sequentially incubating with the sample a thiol-selective reagent to produce thiol derivatives, a purified antibody that specifically binds to a mycothiol derivative or a thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative, and a reagent for detecting binding of the antibody to sample components for a time sufficient for said antibody to react with said mycothiol derivative or said thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative; and~~

~~(b) detecting binding of said antibody with said mycothiol derivative or a thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative,~~

~~wherein the binding indicates presence of a member of the taxa actinomycetes in the sample.~~

~~7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising~~

~~(c) quantitating said mycothiol derivative or said thiol-containing mycothiol component derivative in the sample.~~

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9. (Twice Amended) An isolated antibody which binds specifically to mycothiol or of a thiol-containing mycothiol component.

10. (Amended) The isolated antibody of claim 9, wherein the antibody is monoclonal.

11. (Amended) The isolated antibody of claim 9, wherein the antibody is polyclonal.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said detection reagent is directly labeled with a label.